



Members of the Detroit and West Michigan Annual Conferences joined one another to worship on Friday. Photo by Jeremy Africa

Today's highlights

- 8:30 AM Devotions Bishop Ott
- 9:30 AM TOM Talks
- 11:00 AM Mission Fair
- 1:30 PM Off-site mission
- 2:00 PM Mission Engagement 1
- 3:45 PM Mission Engagement 2
- 7:00 PM Mission Celebration with Bishop Palmer

 **91° HOT/RAIN 20%**

The Lord asked ...

*“Whom shall I send,
and who will go for
us?” And I said,
“Here am I; send me!”*

-Isaiah 6:8 *NRSV*

“LET’S MAKE HISTORY!”

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

EAST LANSING, Mich. (MIC) -- One year to the day after nearly 90% of Michigan United Methodist voted to form a single new conference, a crowd of 2,000 people was seated in Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University. After 48 years of meeting on college campuses one hundred miles apart, members representing United Methodists in Michigan were seated in one place. And it was glorious.

Worship leader Jorge Lockward paused during the singing of *Shall We Gather at the River*, to note that the song was not about death but about finding a new path with God. “The hearts of your two conferences have come together; they quiver and are strangely warmed today.”

Then in an enthusiastic opening of her sermon, Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey said, “Look around will ya! See the faces of your brothers and sisters. Some you know. Some you will get to know. What a body of Christ we are! Can you imagine what we can do, not only for Michigan but for the world, if we leave here fired up for the work of Christ?”

After worship Design Team co-chair, Rev. Marsha Woolley said, “Let’s make history.” The body then approved an enabling motion for the Creation of a New Michigan Area Conference of The United Methodist Church. Applause greeted a statement of the name—*Michigan Conference*— sent on to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference for approval.



THANK YOU BISHOP

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor



Bishop Deb receives blessing. Photo by Jeremy Africa

Tributes by friends and colleagues, a delightful video, and the presence of family made the Friday morning celebration of Bishop Deb's ministry a time of joy.

The time of remembrance and appreciation was guided by Genie Bank, Chair of the Area Episcopacy Committee. Other members of the Committee—Rev. Laurie Haller, John Wharton, and Koom Cho also shared words of blessing and gratitude.

The video, "Bishop Deb, a lifetime of ministry," featured her parents, the Rev. Dr. Lyle and Betty Lieder, husband Brad, episcopal colleagues Gregory Palmer, Sharon Rader, Donald Ott, and Bishop Deb herself. One especially apt comment from Don Ott: "She has a gift to have good thoughts with few words at right moments." The video may be viewed on 2016.michiganumc.org.

Kudos were offered by Iowa friends Rev.s Len and Diane Eberhart; Clergy Assistants Rev. Melanie Carey and Rev. Dr. William Dobbs; and Administrative Assistant Deana Nelson. Judy Johnson, a member of Greensky Hill United Methodist Church, played a ceremonial drum during the proceedings.

Saying, "Look back with graciousness and thanks for all your great and quiet achievements in the Michigan Area," Genie Bank presented a peace pole for the Kiesey's new home with inscriptions in Lakota Sioux, Spanish, Korean, German and English.

Bishop Deb admitted to being a "bit overwhelmed." Then she concluded, "Today the conferences are in a place you have wanted to be for decades. It has been a gift for me to be the one to lead you."

STEPS TO WELLNESS

By Kay DeMoss, Senior Writer/Editor

Nearly three hours on the June 10 schedule was given to beginning a new journey with the Native Americans in Michigan. "I did not cry ... on the outside." This statement was repeated by storyteller Raggatha (Ragghi) Calentine. Ragghi's sharing about the past helped "open the curtains" toward a different kind of future.

Dates and statistics were shared to shape conference members' understanding of the broken promises, forced relocations, and inhuman treatment that marked the history of European encounter with America's first peoples.

At the heart of the Act of Repentance and Reconciliation was the keynoter Rev. Glen Chebon Kernell, General Board of Global Ministries. "How to restore what has taken 500 years to take away?" he asked. "The path to wellness is not a short path or an easy path," he concluded. "It is a path we have to take and it coincides with the Gospel message."



Raggatha (Ragghi) Calentine. Photo by Jeremy Africa

The Michigan Area and a new episcopal leader will now take next steps toward wellness in partnership with the Indian Workers Conference (WM) and Committee on Native American Ministries (DC)

SWEET TWEET O'THE DAY



Patti Steinberg @pamsteinberg

#MIUMC16 FUN Evening!! Kudos to the Organizers! Got all my district pins, did u?

2h

